

AMENDED

Sheet 1 of 4

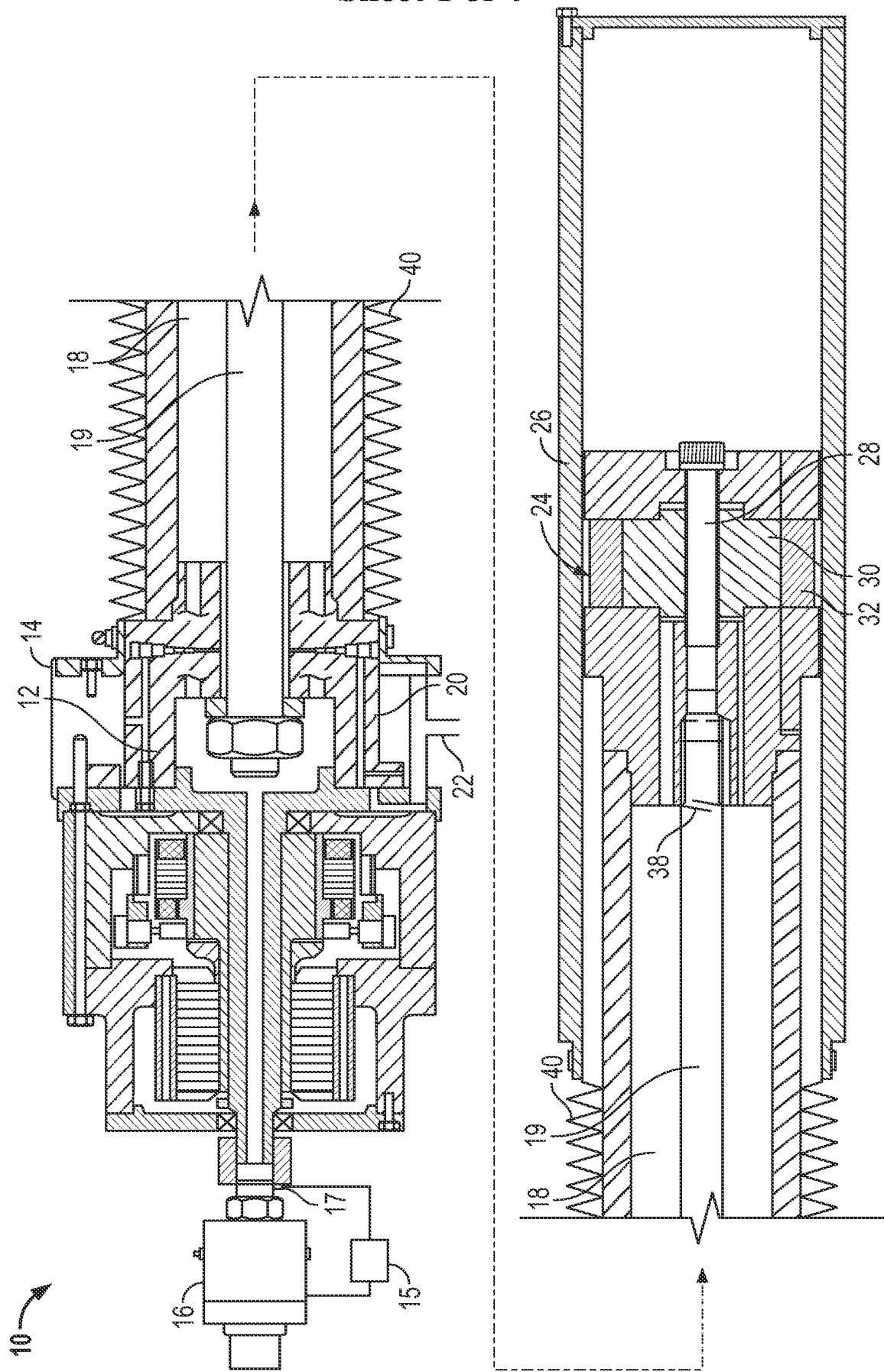


Fig. 1

U.S. Patent

Dec. 7, 1999

Sheet 2 of 4

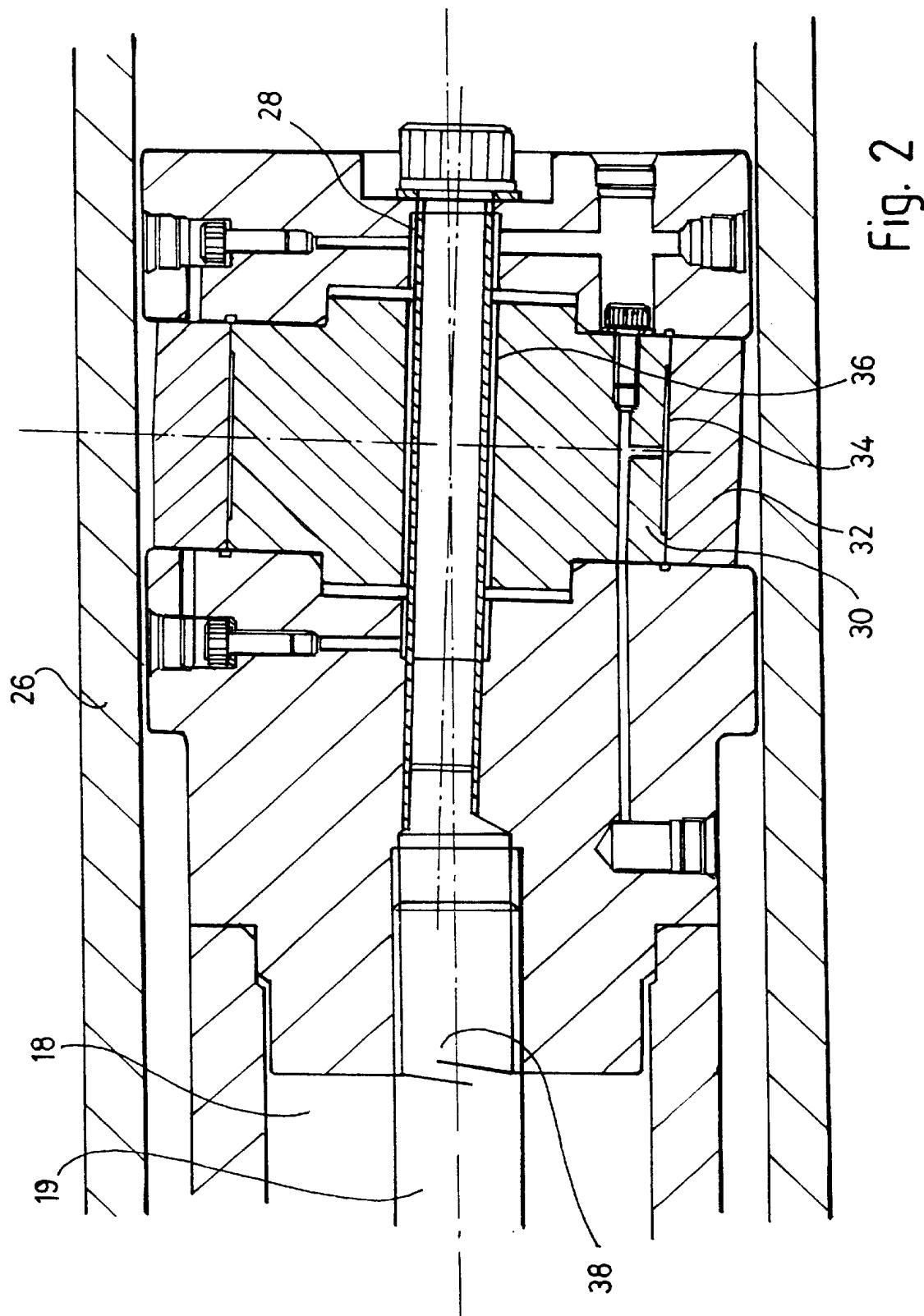
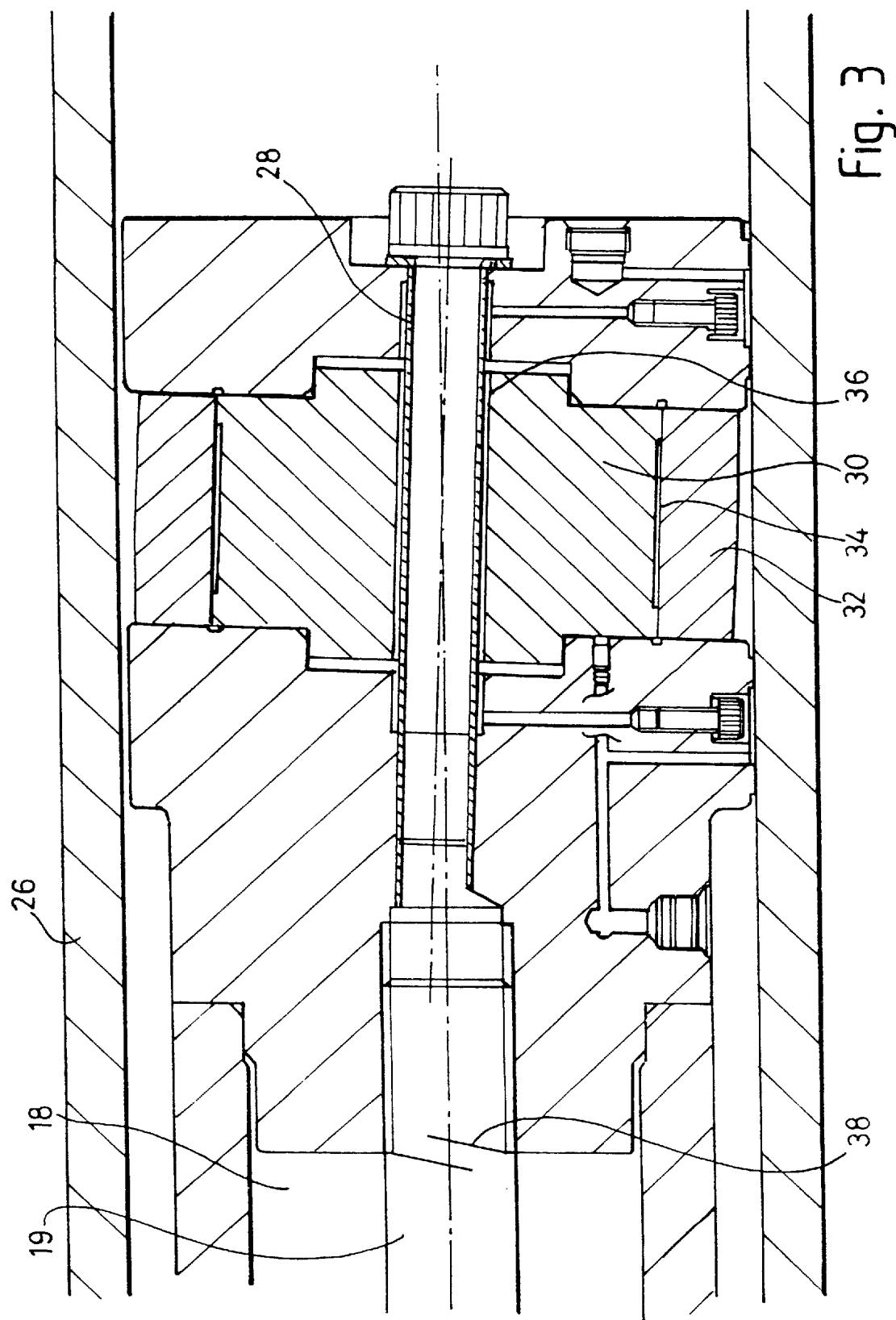
5,996,431

Fig. 2

U.S. Patent

Dec. 7, 1999

Sheet 3 of 4

5,996,431

U.S. Patent

Dec. 7, 1999

Sheet 4 of 4

5,996,431

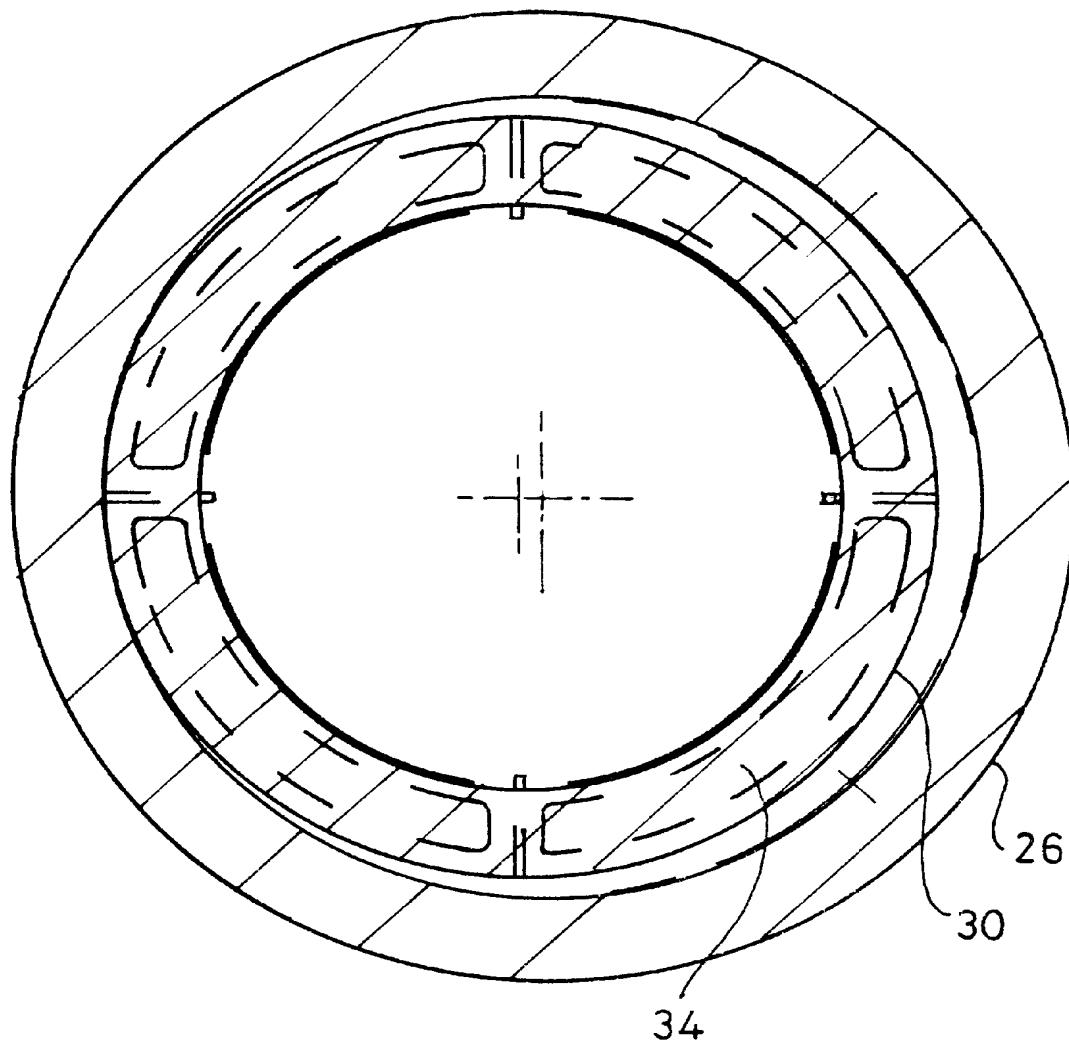


Fig. 4